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Scotland Yard's New Boss Inherits Vox Populi Critics

LONDON.—When Sir Philip Game becomes boss of Scotland Yard next November, he will be open to fire from many critics.

Such has been the experience of all his 12 predecessors in the post, officially styled commissioner of police for the metropolitan area of London.

The very scope of "The Yard's" activities makes its chief a bull's eye for the barbed darts zealous Britons are fond of throwing whenever they think that much-needed changes are threatened.

Is A Tyrant

Even a minor change in police administration may raise a storm of censure, for the popular mind, the yard bosses are ruthless autocrats against the reform for the nation's traditional traditions.

In addition to preserving order in Greater London's 700 square miles, the commissioner must be a born leader of men.

Past bosses have faced bitter criticism because they allegedly failed to meet their public and political duties as well as morally and physically stout.

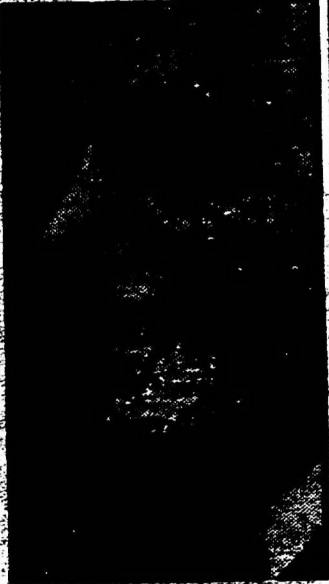
Class Prejudices Charged

Much of the public respect administered to the retiring commissioner, Lord Trenchard, arose from his efforts to stop what he called "mental and physical rot" in the force.

A club of old men with no sense of progression had dominated the force's policies, Trenchard said. To break matters, he started hiring young college men on short term engagements not exceeding 10 years.

A nation-wide cry of abuse arose that Trenchard was disrupting the force by introducing class distinctions. That the reverse was the truth was admitted even by politicians when the popular outcry had cooled.

Both Trenchard and his predecessor, the late Field Marshal



As Philip Game will become "the boss" for London's policemen later in the year, critics when he assumes the leadership of Scotland Yard will condemn. Making the best of the yard's target is a tradition.

Lord Dwyer, in fact, earned the respect and admiration of the Yard's men for keeping the force with their backsides and shoulders.

It is to carry on this tradition that the young Game, with five years of experience in handling metropolitan New South Wales problems, has been chosen to succeed Trenchard.—A.P.

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Former Official Gives Tientsin Rotarians Close-Up Of Work

Scotland Yard was the Headquarters of the Metropolitan Police Force in London. There was another force existent in London and they exercised full control over what was reputed to be the richest square mile in the world—the City of London. In this area the City of London Police held sway, and this force had nothing whatever to do with the Metropolitan Police, nor had the Metropolitan Police any power in the City of London. All the rest of London and the Home counties, however, were policed by the Metropolitan Police, and Scotland Yard was responsible for that district. The Metropolitan Police had no power over any of the other police districts in Great Britain. There were occasions, however, when they were invited to assist in solving serious crimes in other districts. It might seem strange that in big cities such as Birmingham and Manchester Scotland Yard had no control, but the fact remained, they only assisted in investigation when invited to do so.

At the head of the Metropolitan Police was the Commissioner of the Metropolis, and he was a man appointed by the Crown. It was partly due to the connection with politics that Scotland Yard had so much publicity in the press. Two or three decades ago Scotland Yard was comparatively unobtruded, but today one could not pick up a magazine or paper which did not contain some mention of crime and the name of Scotland Yard linked with it. This was due in a large extent to the public's demand for sensation. And so, with publicity from the modern press and through the appointment of the Commissioner, Scotland Yard had become almost a household word. During the past twenty years or so this publicity had been found far from helpful, particularly when it referred to the comings and goings of officers from Scotland Yard in connection with certain crimes.

Appointments of Commissioners
 Had 12 years' record, argued a candidate's success of election by the District committee. Prior to the Grant War, the Commissioner was chosen a life tenant of a great of Massachusetts' ability and the personal friend of a long and distinguished term of office. During and after the war, however, an extraordinary military commander had been the post and together, the two

land. This was controlled extensively by the Home Office. Some of the London boroughs paid money into the Exchequer but had no say in the administration of the Metropolitan Police Force.

Teaching on the work of Scotland Yard, Mr. Dennis said that a very valuable aid to Scotland Yard detectives was the fact that many crimes had their own peculiarities. It had occurred to the Criminal Investigation Department that if they were to classify these crimes and keep comprehensive records, they could work on a system of elimination. To this end the Bureau of Modus Operandi was created.

The conduct of any investigation should, of course, be directed largely to the method by which the crime was carried out. It was a known fact that criminals, and especially thieves, follow at least so prolonged periods the "modus operandi" which afforded them their first success. Thieves will select the same type of property (diamonds, jewellery, clothing, cloth, etc.), the same type of victim, or the same type of premises for recurrent crimes, and it was by their predilection for such things that they might be identified. Such a recognizable similarity of conduct was most common in larceny of various kinds, but it was to be found in other types of crime—forgery, false promises, offences against decency, etc. The recognition of it as a means of identifying and tracing criminals was a great step forward in the history of criminal investigation. It was as the outcome of many years of patient observation that the present day "modus operandi" register at Scotland Yard was developed into the valuable crime index that it has become.

He would try to give his listeners an idea of how the system worked. Late on a November evening, about 8 p. m., in 1939, a number of Scotland Yard men, including himself, were sitting in the Criminal Investigation Department office at Paddington. This office, as some would know, controlled a large part of Kensington where there was a great deal of valuable residential property. The telephone bell rang and there was a great rush of hands and chairs. They had been told to stand by. It appeared that a fairly well-to-do gentleman, with a lucrative business in anti-ques, arrived home with his car at Parkside Place. They went upstairs to the second floor, the rather elegant apartment of the son. When he reached the top of the stairs he saw that a pane of glass had been cut from the window of the door, and realized that a burglar had broken into the premises. He immediately told his son to run for the police, and as the son was going down the stairs a hand with a revolver in it came through the open space in the door and commanded the old man to put up his hands. Whether or not the old gentleman did so must be left to conjecture, but the son lifted two shots. It appeared that the man with the gun intended the door and shot; the unfortunate man at the head of the stairs at point-blank range. The shot never blew them moved the door, so it was lying across the top of the stairs, one of them

that the surgery had been completed.

eliminations were made where the descriptions did not tally, while some of the flat-brokers were still behind the bars. The suspects were finally reduced to seven, six of which were hunted out and were able to account for their movements at the time of the crime.

The seventh could not be found, and he had not been home since the crime was committed. A bunch of photographs were shown to the maids and each identified the man who was missing. His family history was then turned inside out and his girl friends interviewed. It was learned that he was fond of greyhound racing and detectives were posted at dog-race meetings for the next four or eight hours. He was not seen, however, and it was decided to expand the search beyond the London area. Two detectives went to Southend where they spent a miserable evening in the rain without spotting the suspect. At about 10 p.m. they decided to have "a quick one" in a near-by hostelry, and when inside one of the detectives noticed the wanted man standing just behind his companion. He was grabbed and taken outside where a search revealed a revolver hidden on his person.

Taken to Scotland Yard on two charges of flat-breaking and for interrogation in connection with a more serious crime, he was questioned and finally admitted to the shooting. The two maidens identified the man as the one who had called at the flats on the night of the crime, while scientific proof that the fatal bullet had been fired from the gun which was found on the person of the arrested man, who was sentenced to death later at Old Bailey.

Mr. Dennis said that he quoted this case to point out the value of the modulus operandi system, a phase of detective work that would be developed in years to come.

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CRIMINALS AND PASSPORTS

Trade "Non-Existent" in England: Scotland Yard's Way With Traffickers

It appears that the murderer of King Alexander entered France with a forged passport. It is, therefore, reassuring to learn, through a responsible police officer of considerable experience, that the forging of British passports is "practically non-existent."

First, the big international crooks do not use passports—it is much too difficult for them to steal and "doctor" British passports successfully—and, second, international terrorists find it almost impossible to get into Britain, with or without passports.

Why they cannot enter the country is the secret of the Special Branch of Scotland Yard, who exist solely to baulk the political offender, and very wisely they decline to publish the exact details of their methods. The official with whom a representative of "The Observer" spoke remembered in a long experience only two anarchists who succeeded in getting into Britain—and they were very quickly on their way out again."

There is a difference in this realm between the methods in Britain and those on the Continent, and results point to the British procedure being the more successful. The Continental defence against political crime is more spectacular—that is quite possibly its weakness—than the British which is quieter and more unobtrusive.

Forged Visas

The official who was able to give these reassuring facts stressed that the forging of British passports was almost non-existent, but added that there were cases of the forging of visas. This was a fairly simple matter, requiring only a rubber stamp. The process was known to the police, and whenever movements this way of international crooks or terrorists were reported, this form of forgery

was looked for at the ports, and more often than not detected.

It would be as well here to compare the arrangements at the ports in Britain with those on the other side of the Channel; and it was pointed out that, although the passport and immigration officials, the Special Branch, and the C.I.D. were to some extent similar to the corresponding officials on the Continent, close co-operation was a feature of the British system. The method of co-operation is again a matter which the Special Branch prefer to keep to themselves.

It was claimed that murder such as was committed at Marseilles would be impossible in Britain. "When a royal or other distinguished personage is coming to Great Britain," it was stated, "the form of protection to be devised is the duty of the Special Branch of Scotland Yard. Officers who are familiar with the appearances and habits of international crooks, particularly of those with anarchist or Communist tendencies, receive co-operation from the C.I.D. in this way. If the visitor happens to be king of a State in the Balkans, the officers will be fully informed of the districts in London lived in and frequented by people of revolutionary sympathies from that particular country. Facilities will be arranged for the officers to see these people in their haunts, so that they may carry memories of the appearances of the suspects in their minds."

Special Officers

"When the distinguished visitor arrives there will be the usual crowds along the route he is to take, and, incidentally, it would be impossible for him to be left unguarded. Troops, uniformed police officers and plain-clothes detectives line the route in adequate numbers."

Generally, of course, there is little for the uniformed men—troops or police—to do, but valuable work is frequently being done by Special Branch officers all unknown to the thousands of genuine sightseers, whose cheers mark the progress through London of a visiting monarch.

When a foreign monarch came to England some years ago, two Special Branch officers in the crowd that lined the route from the station noticed a face which was familiar to them as one they had seen a good deal in a Soho night cafe. They stationed themselves on either side of him, with their elbows almost meeting in front of the man's stomach. He was a disgruntled native of the visiting king's country. He had no weapons on him, however, so that nothing more than close surveillance could be attempted.

On the other hand, had the police officers not fixed him, accomplices standing near, not known to the police by looks possibly, could have handed him revolver or bomb. This man was deported two months later.

To England Without Passport

Curiously enough, the only crooks who seem to use passports are confidence tricksters, and their passports are usually in perfect order. The rest slip into the country in two ways: (1) By means of coastal and tramp steamers, working their passage and slipping ashore when a row has been started and attention diverted or in some similar way, and (2) by using the return halves of excursion tickets from England to the Continent. They do not use passports, forged or otherwise.

As for anarchists and members of terrorist organizations, very few get through to London. First, they realize that there is a distinct lack of fruitful ground for their activities over here, and, second, the way in is too difficult. Hundreds who have never been near London are known by the Special Branch officers in Britain who were quick to go to see the Marseilles film by the way, to see if they could recognize anybody in the crowd. There may even have been English detectives at Marseilles at the time, for they go abroad to get to know the men who are dangerous, as well as getting information through the International Police Bureau.

The Special Branch work from Scotland Yard, guard prominent British statesmen and politicians, and ensure the safety of visiting monarchs and statesmen. Occasionally they will be attacked in newspapers as a rather useless department: there will be no reply to the attack. Very few people have ever heard of the name of the chief of the Special Branch, and certainly he and his department are not anxious to be in the limelight. Their valuable work is behind the scenes, and their method to know while remaining unknown.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
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Scotland Yard and its Criminals

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reason for requiring help. Suppose some householder complained to the police that a woman had called at his place of residence and produced a letter from a clergyman, telling her that if she came to Salford she could be reunited with the child she had not seen for two years. The M.O. system would enable the investigating officer to turn up all the women in London who have ever been convicted of that trick before and, fortified with a description of the woman, the detective will have little difficulty, if she is still in London, in running her down.

Giving Themselves Away

It is an axiom of criminal investigation that most bad criminals capture themselves. Especially is this the case with murderers. Thomas Neill Cream, one of the most cold-blooded murderers we have had in fifty years, was a remarkable example of this. He was a man who had had some sort of medical training; and his practice was to induce women to take a pill or a bottle of strychnine. Cream could never resist writing letters. Sometimes he wrote them pretending to be a detective; sometimes he wrote accusing perfectly innocent people of the murder. In fact, this was a mania of his, all sorts of people of high and low degree coming under the accusation. The man's vanity was such that even at the inquest on his victims he wrote to the coroner indignant letters, telling him where the medical evidence was wrong. But, as I say, his chief mania was accusing people who had nothing whatever to do with the crimes. Eventually the search narrowed itself down to Neill Cream, and finally he was arrested, convicted and hanged. There is no doubt whatever that he was a systematic poisoner, both in England and America. He had been found guilty in the second degree of the murder of a woman in Chicago, and had served ten years.

Seddon was a murderer who would have escaped all consequence of his act if he had not been so mean that he refused to give even a small portion of the money which his victim had left to one of her relations. Crippen would have escaped detection if he had not run away and emphasised his own guilt. Armstrong would have escaped punishment if, after a successful murder, he had not attempted another, which drew attention to the curious circumstances of his wife's death. Although he had been privately warned that the police were investigating the matter, and that he would be arrested on the morrow, when he was taken into custody they found in his pocket a small package of arsenic. A murderer who had buried the body of his victim in the centre of a chicken run, after watching the fruitless efforts of detectives to discover the body by digging all round his farm, jokingly suggested that they should dig in the run, which they did, and found the terrible evidence they sought. But with all the assistance which murderers give to their captors, it requires a keen analytical brain to utilise the opening which a criminal has offered.

An Aid to Truthfulness

Some day it will be recognised that the protection of the people is of infinitely greater importance than the private rights of citizens, and

the method which has been tried with success in America will be universally adopted. This is known as "the scopolamin method." The man to be questioned is given an injection of scopolamin, which is a drug used to induce what is commonly known as twilight sleep. He is placed in a dark room and questioned. Under the influence of this drug the brain is incapable of inventing, and questions asked are invariably answered truthfully. So far it has not been employed to bring criminals to justice, but it has established the innocence of more prisoners than one serving long terms for offences of which they were not guilty. American justice demands, however, that no man should be convicted on any statement that he makes under such an influence, and judges are chary of countenancing this system. Nevertheless, it is infallible, and some day a realist will come along who will consider that it is much more important that the truth should be known and the guilty punished than that a misguided sense of fair play which can only favour the guilty should be satisfied. In the meantime Scotland Yard pursues its breezy and intelligent way without the aid of dope or bludgeon.

Between Scotland Yard and its criminals there is a peculiar relationship which it is difficult to define, and which I think I have illustrated best in the Sooper stories I have told. There is a great deal of good-natured badinage between them. On the one side a spurious, even humble respect; on the other an invincible scepticism. The respect is mixed with a considerable

amount of private vituperation. Most habitual criminals know that the detective officer will go far out of his way to do them some legitimate turn. They know he will say what there is to be said in their favour, and that he is the means of communicating with their friends and relations, providing the message is a legitimate one. The criminal knows, too, that when a detective officer says he will notify relations and attempt to obtain bail, he will keep his word, and there is no real resentment at his anti-criminal activities. The number of known criminals who violently resist arrest is very small. To 'go quietly' is the unwritten law of their world. It is only the amateur who has to be carried to the station.

It is true to say that every man

who is known to get his living consistently by dishonest means is known personally to the police, and with the assistance of the criminal index it is possible to get immediately into touch with the suspect. On the rare occasions when known criminals commit murder their chance of escape is remote. Every year in this country there are between a hundred and two hundred murders. It has never been below a hundred and never above two hundred. It is also a fact which is not generally known, that one murderer out of every four commits suicide. Mr. Arthur Locke, in some interesting statistics on the subject, has called attention to the fact that only one person under the age of sixteen was convicted in ten years until after the War, when there were five convictions during five years, probably due to causes arising out of the War. In this country crime remains at a fairly low level, and the gunman is unknown.

Should Scotland Yard Tell?

The crimes which are on the increase and with which the police find it most difficult to deal, are cases of false pretences. These have increased to a very considerable extent, a fact which the public should recognise, because it is the average householder and the average citizen who are victimised. This is the only type of criminal with which the average man or woman is brought into contact. Beware of the people who call on you with a pathetic story that they need money to get to their home in some distant part of the country owing to some domestic catastrophe which has overtaken them, or to look for work. Usually they pretend to come from some town with which their victim is associated. They take a great deal of trouble to prepare

their story so as to make it plausible. Beware, too, of the lady who is selling her jewellery owing to domestic misfortune; also of old soldiers who served in the same regiment as you. I have often wondered why the police do not publish the sub-divisions of their M.O. card in relation to this particular offence, so that the public can be put on their guard against tricks, which though old and well worn enough are quite new to the person who is caught by them.

In conclusion, let me say this about Scotland Yard. In all the world there is no machine quite as efficient or as free from outside influences. Lord's son and cook's son get exactly the same treatment at its hands, and that treatment is invariably fair.